This is an interview conducted in Stuttgart in 1991 with Dr. Martin Sandberger, former member of the SS and head of various departments for internal security, including the special command 1a of the Einsatzgruppe A, as well as the security police and the SD.

Dr., thank you for the interview and I would like to ask you a few questions about your experiences during the Third Reich and the war. I heard you were in the SS. Why did you choose this branch of service?

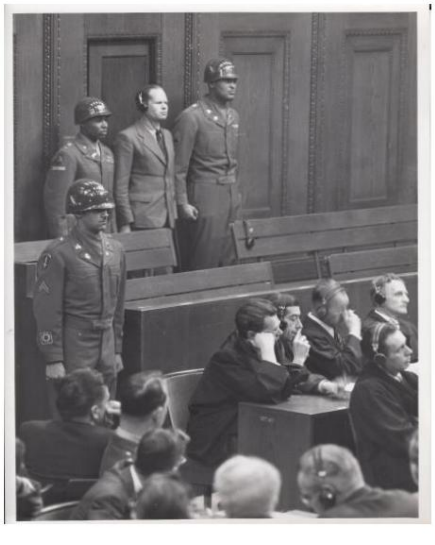
dr Sandberger: I'm afraid the SS elected me and not I the SS. I was a member of the NSDAP early on and a supporter of the Führer. I joined the SA during my studies, but my main focus was on my studies, politics was secondary. Because my family was a social family, we knew a lot of people, some in very high positions, if you will.

When it became clear that we would win the election to lead Germany, I began looking for ways to fit in.
Friends and acquaintances began using my name around RF Himmler, who asked me to meet. We had lunch in Berlin and he explained his vision for Germany and his personal views on religion and the SS. I was very impressed by his intellect and his vision of a healthy, productive and idealistic society. I agreed to be accepted into the Allgemeine SS, where I dealt with the legal side of national security. I received my SS dagger, was promoted and held many offices and ranks. Wearing the black uniform was a symbol of elite status in the new government.

As an SS man you received discounts, good food and first-class medical care in the shops affiliated with the party. My family was well taken care of and I had no more worries. Life was good without fear and the SS was a very professional business organization.

The SS is classified as a criminal organization in Nuremberg, do you support this verdict?

dr Sandberger: No, Nuremberg was a legal farce, like all trials dealing with our warfare. We were judged by a standard that was unlawful and against all the laws on which the West was founded. The Allies invented charges for acts that were not crimes until May '45. They practiced the same acts as the empire, such as removing a foreign people who had declared war on the host country. Much of the evidence used in the trials was dubious at best, and the defense's hands were tied, which could be disproved. It was an Allied act of revenge disguised as justice, murdering innocent people to the applause of the ignorant masses.



I can tell you with a clear conscience that we have done nothing to tarnish our reputation as an organization and as a political party. The victors of the war had 55 years to work their side of history, using traitors and cowards to help build a twisted history of our movement and military.

The SS was a very elite and honorable cadre of men and women; we honored our God, our ancestors, our

People and we fought for Europe to the death or defeat. I believe that all crimes of which the SS is accused must be investigated impartially and from all sides. Oradour-Sur-Glane, Le Paradis, Malmedy and many others appear to be on shaky legal ground. It was not customary or okay in the SS to shoot prisoners or civilians unless there was a process and a legitimate order from above.

After the war I met Dr. Morgen *[pictured left],* a fellow SS lawyer, and he had great reservations about the Allied demands. He agreed with some of the claims at the time because he simply wanted to return to private life and not be involved with the war anymore. Certainly there were some of our men who were corrupt, but in general our forces have behaved well in all areas, with few exceptions. The stories about our forces running around Europe killing everyone we didn't like are just plain wrong. You are taking an isolated incident that was complex from many points of view and making it an improper state policy. I believe as more people become curious and start investigating these claims, another truth will emerge and prevail.

You were on the Eastern Front and in the Baltic States, what experiences have you had with the non-German population?

dr Sandberger: I served in the RSD protecting our empire from terrorists and spies, and part of that work was helping our allies fight the enemy within the borders. I started in the Baltic States and it was unsettling to see what a single year of Bolshevik control could do. When I arrived in Estonia, of course, we had to deal with the Jewish problem. When the Soviets invaded, one of the first measures was to use loyal Jews to expel Christians and anyone who might oppose the Soviets. When we attacked the Soviets in an area we had liberated, the same scenario played out: Jews who did not retreat with the Soviets were hunted down and killed by militias and angry civilians.

This happened in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia; Jews were rounded up and executed by local militias angry at what was being done to their people. I had to submit reports of these killings, which the victors then used to blame us for the killings. I had to intervene and order the arrest of some militiamen who had used their power to kill innocent people. We were pressured to release them as we needed their help with the war effort. These states insisted that all Jews leave the country; they demanded to be free of Jews. We had to arrest all Jews, including the remaining Marxists, everyone was interrogated and many were resettled in the East, we persuaded the mayors to let Jews who had done nothing wrong return. I would like to emphasize that many Jews were left alone and free to live their lives since they had done nothing against us or the people in whose country they lived.

After the Jewish problem was solved by exterminating the enemy, I went to work and helped rebuild these areas; we reopened the churches, set up new schools and contributed our expertise to bring National Socialism closer to people. Tens of thousands flocked to join the fight, and many more left to work in the empire and get better pay. We had to be on the lookout all the time because the Soviets had many allies infiltrating these nations and spying on us. When we caught saboteurs and spies, they were publicly executed and unfortunately we often had to do that.

After we liberated an area, I moved to Russia and got to work helping to rebuild the destroyed infrastructure. The Soviets destroyed everything while they

retreated, which our forces did in return when we were forced to retreat. This was done in order to deprive the enemy of all comfort and resources. It also harmed the civilian population. It was made clear to everyone that we were at war with Bolshevism, not with the Russian people. We had 20 years to correct their propaganda and we had to deal with the hidden gangs of terrorists attacking our vulnerable rear areas.

My job was to secure the areas where our welfare teams worked, it was hard work. These people were the main victims of terrorist attacks, many of whom ended up being Jews. An example of the barbarity of these criminals was in 1942 a busload of nurses being brought into a town to occupy a clinic that was being rebuilt. The bus was hijacked and all the nurses were murdered.

Some showed signs of being abducted and raped because of blood and semen on their genitals. The local SD office was tasked with finding the perpetrators and a large reward was offered and informants went to work. The informants gave the names of those involved, they were tracked down, brought in for intensive questioning and charged with murder.

It was a large group consisting of Soviet soldiers, Jews and other opponents of ours. I ordered that all should be executed if the convictions could be upheld. They were executed and all who helped hide, feed or protect these killers were tried, some were sent to labor camps. Again and again we fought these people, a large part of whom were Jews, who worked against our allies and us. If caught, they would be tried and sentenced under the laws that governed our decisions.

Did you work with Reinhard Heydrich, if so what was your impression?

dr Sandberger: Yes, he was my boss and I have nothing bad to say about him. He was a very dedicated leader who shared the same vision as Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler. I remember how he followed our orders to the letter, no matter who he was bypassing. I remember that immediately after the end of the fighting in Poland, at the request of a party leader, he received a file from the police chief of an East German city. In 1939, a 15-year-old German girl was mugged and raped by a Pole illegally crossing the border to rob our citizens. The Pole saw her, attacked her and hit her so hard that she had to be taken to Berlin for special treatment. She became pregnant and an abortion was approved because she was too young to give birth and it would be a sin to force her to suffer the consequences of rape.

The man, caught and interrogated in 1940, admitted to assaulting her but denied raping her. The judge sentenced him to prison. Heydrich ordered the man's immediate execution and refused his family's plea for leniency on the grounds that the harm done to the girl needed justice and closure. Since the man was living with his parents, Heydrich ordered that if they wanted to collect the body they would have to pay the cost of moving the body, otherwise it would be cremated and the ashes thrown in the garbage.

Heydrich was killed by Allied agents who now claim they killed him because he was terrible to the Czech people. That's a complete lie. He was sent to the Protectorate because the Reichsfuhrer felt he was humane and could unite the Czech people to help the war effort. It was very successful, productivity increased and people were happy. The Reichsfuhrer SS even boasted that he received letters telling him how happy they were with Heydrich. That's how good he was.

Agents educated and trained by our enemies were sent to kill him, hoping that this would end the good work he was doing and make the populace think twice about working with us. They would also propagate any reprisals against the agents. Which they did and they accused us of wiping out a town called Lidice. But I am skeptical of any Allied claims. They are either wrong or misrepresented. In short, he was killed because he was a good leader and a good man.

What about the actions of the task forces? I heard you were one of them and was taught that these groups hunted down and killed Jews and all other undesirables, killing up to 1 million people in the process.

dr Sandberger: Yes, one day the whole story of the Holocaust will depend on us, but remember, just as the number of Jews killed is wrong, the number of criminals we killed is nowhere near a million, maybe a few thousand . Our job was to protect our nation and our sphere of influence. We fought against the three most powerful nations in the world and they could oppose us a lot. Part of their war was to send agents to incite the populace to resist us. Again, I have to say that they fought in a criminal manner and targeted anyone, military or civilian, who helped us.

We often saw the results of their attacks: young and old, civilians, servants, militiamen and military were brutally murdered. When we ordered the arrest of Jews so that they could be identified and traced, many fled into the swamps and joined Soviet-led gangs, which at times numbered in the hundreds.

The men on the operation had to track down these animals, hunt them down and if they were found, they were dealt with under martial law.

Members of the Einsatzgruppen look for partisans behind the lines. HEYDRICH defined their activity as follows in a communication dated July 2, 1941: "The immediate goal is the pacification of the newly conquered areas by the security police." The security of the troops had priority.

We openly photographed the executions of these criminals, not to boast or glorify ourselves, but to show the world who we were dealing with. This was such a hard task that it broke many men, you had to be very tough mentally and understand why it was done and always think of the victims of these beasts. I know it is said today that some Wehrmacht officers were upset at the sight of some of these executions; I think they embellished some stories to gain the sympathy of the Allies. Indeed, these executions were difficult to watch and I felt sorry for the men who had to carry out this task, but we always remembered that there were victims demanding justice.

It was so bad that the Reichsfuhrer SS had to meet with the executives to make them understand that this was hard work; but we couldn't let these people go.
Once caught and identified as guilty, they had to be punished, and often that meant ending their lives. So that was the task of all task forces: to fight terror and bring criminals in the occupied territories to justice.

I can tell you about a major operation that took place in 1943. Allied propaganda alerted the gangs that we were retreating, so they increased their attacks on anyone helping us. In a village near the Estonian border there was a sawmill that had been taken over by the local Russian militia. They helped rebuild their village and worked with us. A terrorist gang attacked them and killed everyone; Children, women and even

Dogs. This was one of many attacks along the swamp border; they then hid in the dense areas that were difficult to reach.

We used all available forces, locals, militia, Wehrmacht and police. We came from different directions, with the help of the Luftwaffe; we found a large camp with hundreds of bandits and their families. A major battle ensued, involving artillery, bombers and small T26 tanks. The gang was broken up, most were killed in the fighting and the remaining men were executed. The women were sent to labor camps unless they had children, in which case they could be pardoned if they just ran along.

In my area of responsibility, I was very good at keeping the terrorists under control, so new assignments awaited me as new threats emerged.

What was your impression of Reichsfuhrer Himmler?

dr Sandberger: I've always admired him. We didn't always agree, but he was always open to suggestions and other points of view. That made him a great leader; he treated everyone with respect and kindness. I remember he was a hard worker, but he also enjoyed vacationing and going away. On the surface he seemed anti-religious, but the more I worked with him, the more I understood that he was anti-religion only because the Jew had subverted and twisted the Word of God.

They were called God's chosen ones, and they put pressure on our churches to agree with them, teaching that whatever a Jew did wrong was somehow right with God, so we should turn a blind eye too. This is an example of what he wanted to fix with the SS, which was to bring our people back to their roots and turn them away from the false teachings of the church. I am a devout Christian and I understood that the SS was in no way directed against religion, but against the devil's children who use our faith against us in order to destroy us.

This was Himmler's mission, to get our people to see that they were being misled; the SS were the vanguard to open his eyes to a truer way of faith and life.

He died at the hands of the English and I don't believe the story that he took his own life, I think he was killed for telling too much dirt about the Allies. He knew firsthand what the concentration camps were really for, how they were bombed and thousands of inmates died; that the gas chambers were a lie, how the bombing of the Reich brought down the camp system in the final month of the war, condemning thousands to death. He had open channels with the Zionists to send our Jews to Palestine and work with the Arabs to create a healthy transition. Look at what we have today that will one day lead to war.

Do you feel guilty that Jews were sent to concentration camps?

dr Sandberger: No, I don't. The reason I can say this with a clear heart is that people today do not know what these Allies did to us to provoke our reaction. It is said that we were just jealous of the Jews' success and targeted them because they are smarter than us, but this is not true. They were such a small group in Germany but held most of the nation's power and wealth;

something was wrong with how they had gotten to this point. As a rule, their morals were not compatible with ours. They brought all sorts of filth and foisted it on our youth. When the Führer deposed them, they declared war on our country and promptly began killing Germans abroad and sabotaging our efforts to rebuild our country.

This all came to a head when the war with Russia began. Since we had liberated many areas, it was agreed that we would send the Jews who resisted us back to where they came from. Our ultimate plan was to remove all Jews, but during the war we found that many Jews were loyal to Germany and genuinely wanted to help us. This put us in a dilemma because it meant we had to decide who should stay and who should go.

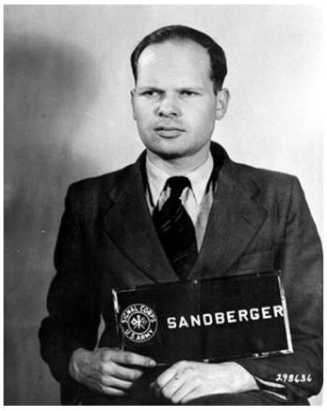
It was easy for some, since they openly opposed us and tried to wage war with the pen, and sometimes to sabotage. Others were criminals guilty of espionage, pornography, fraud, theft, and sex crimes. They were sent away to be relocated or to serve a sentence imposed by a court. As we occupied more and more areas, the population also wanted to get rid of their Jews, so we had to find ways to humanely remove entire families while keeping families together. We created ghettos to house them and opened camps to hold them pending resettlement. This all happened in a safe and mostly voluntary way. If we wanted to kill them all, then why all the camps, hospitals and facilities to care for them. In Auschwitz, like in many other camps, there was a day-care center, a swimming pool, a shop, football teams and a hospital.

We never intended to harm the Jews who were to be resettled east; the order was to see that they were taken away, but with compassion. I can't imagine that this could have happened any other way. I blame the Allies for the deaths because they denied us the ability to care for them. Belsen was a prison camp full of sick people that was hit by a severe typhoid epidemic in the last month of the war that we couldn't stop. I should add that in some areas prisoners released by the Allies vented their anger on civilians, killing and raping many with impunity. We hear nothing more about that today.

Deadly outbreaks occurred in Auschwitz, Himmler had to intervene and use highly qualified medical teams to fight diseases, unfortunately many died and these were valuable workers for our factories. I know the photos seem consistent with the Allied history, but there is so much more than what is shown today. We only wanted the relocation of the enemies, not what happened in the end. The Americans resettled many Japanese, but because they had strong medical personnel and good infrastructure, very few died.

Finally, on this subject, which I do not wish to discuss any further, many Jews lived in the Reich and were not molested at all. They served our country, remained loyal and committed no crimes. Some served in the armed forces, helped with the war effort, worked in factories, and denounced what their brothers had caused.

They were accused of murdering Jews and sentenced to death. Can you tell me how it felt to be in court?



dr Sandberger: Well, it wasn't a good time, I can tell you that. I surrendered to the Allies expecting to be released, as I was just a soldier faithful to my duty. As I belonged to the SD I was a priority person, they wanted information about what I was doing and who I was working with. Comrades warned me that the Allies were out of control and had no reasonable legal basis for the crimes they accused us of. These trials had the appearance of officiality and veracity, but on closer inspection they were show trials using revenge, hatred and dirty tricks to force us to say things that we genuinely disagreed with or were involved in .

I have been accused of ordering the killing of innocent people in Estonia; I was accused of killing anyone who went missing. Jews, gypsies, dissenters, priests, pastors and Russians. These allegations could not be defended as no defense was allowed, the Soviets were allowed to bring in people who were sure not to be anywhere near these areas. As a lawyer, I could immediately see through the flimsy evidence and fabricated eyewitnesses. Witnesses who wanted to defend us were not allowed to do so, the courts turned them away. A total show trial disguised as legal precedent, every trial was like that.

I'm human so I was afraid of what was happening to me, some guards were cruel and bullied me, the interrogators were often former German Jews who we threw out and then came back and took revenge. In the eyes of the court we were all guilty and had no opportunity to defend ourselves as the court did not allow the defense access to witnesses or proper cross-examination, which is a crime in itself. I knew I was doomed, but I prayed to God that He would somehow get me out of this situation while so many were taking their lives just for serving their country in times of war. The reading of the death sentence was the lowest point in my life.

Luckily my prayers were answered as my family was able to support me and first my sentence was commuted to life imprisonment, then after many years I was released due to further interventions.

Do you harbor a certain anger toward the Allies?

dr Sandberger: Of course, I and all Germans who experienced the war are angry and resentful of what was done to us. The Allies are trying to show that we were so tired of Hitler and the war and welcomed their "liberation"; in truth we capitulated because we had nothing left to fight with. You may see wartime newsreels showing cheering crowds and happy children, but this is staged propaganda. I was there at the end and the German people didn't want anything to do with the "liberation" because we knew what that meant. The main victims were our women, who were raped and exploited by Allied soldiers who used starvation as a weapon to obtain sexual favors.

I heard that many marriages in the US were destroyed because GIs took German girls as trophies and left their American wives. This will forever be an eyesore on America when it comes out. We never wanted to fight this war; it was forced upon us by England, which would not let us out of the war. America was not our enemy, but Roosevelt made it clear that he would not be a friend of Germany. He unlawfully supported England which resulted in his resources being used against ours and in

shots were fired in some cases. When the Fuhrer declared war, for which many criticize him, he only gave our Navy the opportunity to legally fire back.

The war with Bolshevism had to come at some point. Our intelligence indicated they were planning an attack on us and we beat them first. Europe will thank us one day because although we lost we held them in check and the western allies prevented them from marching to the canal. It is my firm belief, and a defector told me, that Stalin planned an invasion of all of Europe once England and we weakened, for the Bolsheviks' aim was always to achieve world domination.

Weak, stupid and corrupt leaders, unaware that Europeans were slowly succumbing to materialism and laziness, destroyed our plans for a strong, healthy and united Europe. They cared less and less about their people, and populations dwindled while the rest of the world exploded in numbers. So while I hate the Allies for the war they started, I wish that we would unite and now that Germany is reuniting, maybe that will happen in the future.

Task Forces of the Security Police and the SD